

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting head assembly comprising:

a cutting head including a first head member including a first set of returns, the first head member adjustably connected to a second head member including a second set of returns;

a cutting member connected to the cutting head, wherein the cutting member is formed of a strip of material including having a thickness in the range of 0.005 inches to 0.0015 inches, and a width in the range of 0.375 inches to 0.625 inches, a first end, a second end and a length, and further wherein the first ~~end of the~~ and second ends of the cutting member are secured to the cutting head, the length of the cutting member being positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns in a serpentine ~~configuration,~~ configuration so that a leg a plurality of leg segments of the cutting member extending extend across an aperture formed through the cutting head ~~and the second end of the cutting member secured to the cutting head;~~ and

a cutting member tensioning device disposed between and adjustably engaging the first head member and second head member for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the cutting member.

2. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device ~~further~~ comprises one or more cutting member tensioning screws disposed between and threadedly engaging the first head member ~~for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each comprise a height substantially equal to a width of the cutting member for transferring a substantially equal force across the width of the cutting member.

4. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each ~~further~~ comprise a bearing face lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of each of the leg segments of the cutting member extending across the aperture formed through the cutting head.

5. (Currently Amended) The cutting assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device ~~adjusts the distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns~~ is capable of imparting a tensile force in excess of 100,000 pounds per square inch along the cutting member.

6. (Currently Amended) The cutting assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device ~~further~~ comprises a screw including a longitudinal axis, the longitudinal axis of the screw oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of the leg segments of the cutting member extending across the aperture formed through the cutting head, ~~the screw adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the screw.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The cutting head assembly of Claim 1 wherein the cutting member tensioning device ~~further~~ comprises a pair of screws, each of the ~~pair of screws~~ including a longitudinal axis, ~~the longitudinal axis of each of the pair of~~

~~screws oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of the leg segments of the cutting member extending across the aperture formed through the cutting head, and each of the pair of screws adjustably attaching the first set of returns and the second set of returns for adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns for tensioning the cutting member along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the pair of screws.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A cutting head assembly comprising:

a cutting head including a first head member including a first set of returns, the first head member opposingly and adjustably connected to a second head member including a second set of returns;

a tensioned blade formed of a substantially flat strip of material, the tensioned blade ~~including~~ having a first end, a second end, a length, a longitudinal axis, a thickness and a width, wherein the width is greater than the thickness, and further wherein the tensioned blade is positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns in a serpentine configuration, configuration so that a leg plurality of leg segments of the tensioned blade extending extend across an aperture formed through the cutting head, the first end of the tensioned blade being secured to the cutting head by a first end securing member and the second end of the tensioned blade being secured to the cutting head by a second end securing member;

the first and second set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis axes of the plurality of leg segments of the tensioned blade for exerting a substantially equal tensile force across a full width of the tensioned blade, substantially reducing stress risers in the tensioned blade;

~~the second set of returns each including a face that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tensioned blade for exerting a tensile force across a full width of the tensioned blade, substantially reducing stress risers in the tensioned blade; and~~

a tensioning device including one or more screws disposed between and adjustably engaging the first head member and the second head member, each of the one or more screws including a longitudinal axis oriented along a plane substantially parallel to a the longitudinal axis axes of the plurality of leg segments of the tensioned blade extending across the aperture, ~~for the tensioning device being~~ capable of adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade along a plane substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of each of the one or more screws.

9. (Previously Presented) The cutting head assembly of Claim 8 wherein the first set of returns and the second set of returns each comprise a height substantially equal to the width of the tensioned blade for transferring a substantially equal force across the width of the tensioned blade.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) A cutting head assembly comprising:

a monolithic portion having a first face and a second face, an aperture being formed through the monolithic portion from the first face to the second face, wherein the first face has a lower surface and a raised portion which is raised with respect to the lower surface, the lower surface encompassing a first length of the perimeter of the aperture and the raised portion encompassing a remaining second length of the perimeter of the aperture so that the first and second lengths together make up the entire length of the perimeter of the aperture on the first face, a first set of returns being formed in the raised portion along the second length of the perimeter;

a moveable plate positioned against the lower surface so as to be in a slidingly adjustable relationship with the raised portion, the moveable plate having a moveable upper surface and a moveable side surface, a second set of returns being formed in the moveable upper surface and along the moveable side surface so as to be positioned on the opposite side of the aperture from the first set of returns;

a tensioned blade formed of a substantially flat strip of material, the tensioned blade having a thickness and a width, wherein the width is greater than the thickness, and further wherein the tensioned blade is positioned about the first set of returns and the second set of returns in a serpentine configuration so that a plurality of leg segments of the tensioned blade extend across the aperture;

a tensioning device including one or more screws disposed between and adjustably engaging the monolithic portion and the moveable plate, the tensioning device being capable of adjusting a distance between the first set of returns and the second set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade.

12. (New) The cutting head assembly of claim 11, wherein the second face of the monolithic portion has a second lower surface and a second raised portion which is raised with respect to the second lower surface, the second lower surface encompassing a third length of the perimeter of the aperture and the second raised portion encompassing a remaining fourth length of the perimeter of the aperture so that the third and fourth lengths together make up the entire length of the perimeter of the aperture on the second face, a third set of returns being formed in the second raised portion along the fourth length of the perimeter;

a second moveable plate positioned against the second lower surface so as to be in a slidingly adjustable relationship with the second raised portion, the second moveable plate having a second moveable upper surface and a second moveable side surface, a fourth set of returns being formed in the second moveable upper surface and along the second moveable side surface so as to be positioned on the opposite side of the aperture from the third set of returns;

a second tensioned blade formed of a substantially flat strip of material, the second tensioned blade having a thickness and a width, wherein the width is greater than the thickness, and further wherein the tensioned blade is positioned about the third set of returns and the fourth set of returns in a serpentine configuration so that a plurality of leg segments of the tensioned blade extend across the aperture;

a second tensioning device including one or more screws disposed between and adjustably engaging the monolithic portion and the second moveable plate, the second tensioning device being capable of adjusting a distance between the third set of returns and the fourth set of returns and tensioning the tensioned blade.